

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 NIC-01 TRSE-00

SR-02 ORM-01 /102 W

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P R 241010Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8708

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

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7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 17072

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT-- DECEMBER 24, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE GKR WELCOMED THE MARTINIQUE COMMUNIQUE'S HOPE THAT THE KHMER CONTENDING PARTIES WILL BEGIN PEACE TALKS SOON. SIHANOUK SCORED THE COMMUNIQUE AS "INADMISSABLE INTERFERENCE" BUT HAD (#) EARLIER AND SOFTER TALK OF NEOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND AMNESTY FOR "TRAITORS." DEFENSE MINISTER THAPPANA NGINN RESIGNED, BEGINNING SOME CABINET CHANGES TIMED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE JANUARY 19 SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY ELECTION OF OFFICERS. CONGRESS PASSED THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, AUTHORIZING UP TO \$452 MILLION FOR CAMBODIA, AN AMOUNT ONE POPULAR DAILY FINDS INSUFFICIENT. CLANDESTINE RADIO SEES THE AID CUT AS LEADING TO THE GKR'S CERTAIN FALL.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL TRAVELLED TO PHNOM BASET, NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH DECEMBER 21, AND THE NEXT DAY VISITED KOMPONG SPEU ON ROUTE 4. HE MET WITH MONKS, REFUGEES AND FARMERS, NOTED THAT THE UN IS NOW COMMITTED  
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TO HELP FIND PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED PEASANTS AND REFUGEES TO ORGANIZE FOR INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE AND INCREASED/PRODUCTION.

3. DEFENSE MINISTER THAPPANA NGINN RESIGNED, OSTENSIBLY FOR HEALTH REASONS, AND LONG BORET COLLABORATOR HOU HONG, MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTRY, TEMPORARILY ASSUMED THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO. COMMENT: AL-

THOUGH NGINN IS AN OLD CRONY OF LON NOL'S, THE MARSHAL AGREED TO HAVE HIM FORCED OUT WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WAS INEFFECTIVE AND CORRUPTION-RIDDEN.

4. ANOTHER CHANGE REMOVED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SECRETARY GENERAL NGUON CHHAY KRY WHO IS CONVALESCING AFTER AN ACCIDENT. VONG SAREN, AN INTERIOR MINISTRY FUNCTIONARY WHO IS ALSO LONG BORET'S FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW, REPLACED HIM. NGUON CHHAY KRY HAS BEEN MADE DIPLOMATIC COUNSELLOR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

5. A POPULAR VERNACULAR DAILY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE AID ACCORDED CAMBODIA BY THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT CONGRESS PASSED DECEMBER 18. ACCORDING TO THE DAILY, A TOTAL OF \$452 MILLION IS INSUFFICIENT CONSIDERING THAT THIS YEAR MILITARY NEEDS ALONE PASSED \$400 MILLION. THE PAPER ASKS THE AMERICANS TO THINK AGAIN, ARGUING THAT CUTTING AID WHILE FIGHTING IS STILL GOING ON IS INOPPORTUNE.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. THE DECEMBER 16 FINAL COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT BETWEEN PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRESIDENT FORD NOTES, REGARDING CAMBODIA, THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS "HOPE THAT THE CONTENDING PARTIES WOULD ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE...THAT FOLLOWING LAOS, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM MIGHT ALSO FIND THEIR POLITICAL WAY TOWARDS CIVIL PEACE." AFP REPORTS THAT THE GKR INFORMATION MINISTER SAID THE KHMER REPUBLIC "ENTIRELY SHARES" THE TWO PRESIDENT'S HOPE AND ADDED THAT THE GKR "IS PLEASED AT THE INTEREST AND CONTINUING ATTENTION" FROM THE FRENCH PRESIDENT. COMMENT: AS THE GKR IS WELL AWARE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT FRANCE HAS PUBLICLY ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH THE GOAL OF NEGOTIATIONS.

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GRUNK/FUNK

7. SIHANOUK REACTED SHARPLY TO THE MARTINIQUE COMMUNIQUE DECEMBER 21 CALLING IT AN "INADMISSIBLE INTERFERENCE" BUT ADDED THE INTERESTING TIDBITS THAT WHILE IT WAS AN "INACCEPTABLE INJUSTICE" TO PLACE GRUNK ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE "TRAITOROUS" GKR, "AN ACT OF GOOD SENSE WOULD BE FOR FRANCE, AND THE U.S. TO INVITE THE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT--THE AGGRESSOR...TO NEGOTIATE PEACE...WITH THE GRUNK." SIHANOUK ALSO OBSERVED THAT HE HAD TOLD THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING THAT GRUNK, "IN ORDER TO FACILITATE CAMBODIAN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" WAS READY TO AMNESTY AND INTEGRATE "TRAITORS" WILLING TO RALLY. COMMENT. SIHANOUK HAS MADE BOTH THESE OFFERS

BEFORE BUT THROUGHOUT THE RECENT UNGA PREPARATIONS AND  
DEBATE HAS MAINTAINED A HARSH LINE INSISTING THAT THE  
U.S. GET OUT OF CAMBODIA AND PROMISING DEATH TO GKR LEADERS.  
THE FOLLOWING ITEM SUGGESTS THAT HE IS AGAIN MANEUVERING  
AHEAD OF THE IN-COUNTRY INSURGENTS.

8. CLANDESTINE RADIO MAINTAINED THE IN-COUNTRY INSURGENT  
POSITION AGAINST UN PEACE MEDIATION DECEMBER 20, RE-  
AFFIRMING REJECTION OF THE UN RESOLUTION AND NOTING THAT  
THEY ARE STRUGGLING FOR TOTAL VICTORY "WITHOUT COMPROMISE

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) AS RECEIVED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 17072

OR NEGOTIATION." ACCORDING TO THE BROADCAST,THE  
"PEOPLE'S WILL" IS TO DRIVE THE U.S.OUT OF CAMBODIA  
AND THEY VIEW A TRIP TO CAMBODIA BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
AS AN "ENCOURAGEMENT" TO U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND THE LON  
NOL CLIQUE, THEY THEREFORE DECLINE RESPONSIBILITY" FOR  
THE ARRIVAL OR SOJOURN OF KURT WALDHEIM OR ANY OTHER  
FOREIGNERS IN PHNOM PENH..." CLANDESTINE RADIO THEN RE-  
ITERATES THAT PEACE WILL ONLY RETURN IF THE U.S. "STOPS  
THEIR AID...AND WITHDRAWS COMPLETELY FROM CAMBODIA."

9. THE CLANDESTINE PRESS AGENCY COMMENTED THAT THE  
CONGRESSIONAL AID CUT TO "\$377 MILLION" FACES THE GKR  
WITH STARVATION AND EVENTUAL DEFEAT.

ECONOMIC

10. AS A RESULT OF A MILITARY OPERATION APPROXIMATELY  
50 KMS.SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, SOME 850 FAMILIES/4,000  
PEOPLE ENETERED TAKEO OVER DECEMBER 18 AND 19. PROVINCIAL  
AUTHORITIES AND THE KHMER RED CROSS PROVIDED THE REFUGEES

WITH LOCAL RELIEF SUPPLIES AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AND CRS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES.

11. RETAIL PRICE CHANGES SINCE LAST WEEK WERE GENER-  
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ALLY MIXED IN PHNOM PENH. BEEF AND CHICKEN ROSE 18 PER-  
CENT AND 8 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY, WHILE RICE (BOTH U.S.  
AND BATTAMBANG) CAME DOWN 7 PERCENT. FRESH FISH (BOTH  
OCEAN AND INLAND) DECLINED MORE THAN 10 PERCENT,  
BUT THE COST OF DRIED FISH REMAINED UNCHANGED. FRUIT  
WAS/DOWN WHILE VEGETABLES WERE MIXED. THE BLACK MARKET  
EXCHANGE RATE CLIMBED 4 PERCENT TO 1,720 RIELS PER  
DOLLAR, THUS RISING ONCE AGAIN ABOVE THE OFFICIAL (FREE  
MARKET) RATE AND THE CUT-OFF RATE OR LOWEST ACCEPTED BID  
RATE ON THE NOUVEAU MARCHE IMPORT MARKET. THE PRICE OF  
GOLD INCREASED DURING THE WEEK FROM \$161 TO \$171 PER  
OUNCE.

12. AS OF DECEMBER 22, RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH  
TOTALLED 24,563 M/T, OR A 33 DAY SUPPLY AT THE 750 M/T  
DAILY DISTRIBUTION RATE. ACTUAL DAILY DISTRIBUTION  
DURING THE WEEK WAS 714 M/T, UP FROM THE 506 M/T AVERAGE  
RATE DURING THE FIRST FIFTEEN DAYS OF THE MONTH. A REGU-  
LAR MEKONG RICE CONVOY ARRIVED ON THE 16TH WITH 8,300  
M/T; ANOTHER ARRIVED ON THE 23RD WITH 7,700 M.T. THE  
DECEMBER 18 TRUCK CONVOY FROM BATTAMBANG ARRIVED AT  
KOMPONG CHHNANG WITH 1.850 M/T OF RICE AND RICE DERIVA-  
TIVES. THIS FINAL TRUCK CONVOY BROUGHT THE LAST OF THE  
1973-74 BATTAMBANG RICE SURPLUS.

MILITARY

13. TWO FANK BRIGADES SUPPORTED BY TWO M-113 SQUADRONS  
RETOOK THE SMALL VILLAGE OF RUSSEI SROK ALONG THE EAST  
BANK OF THE BASSAC RIVER. ENEMY RESISTANCE WAS LIGHT,  
ENCOURAGING GOVERNMENT FORCES TO CONTINUE THE ATTACKS  
TO THE EAST WHERE THEY LINKED UP WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 24TH  
BRIGADE. THEY FORMED A LINE BETWEEN THE MEKONG AND THE BASSAC  
WHICH KEEPS THE ENEMY WELL OUT OF ROCKET RANGE OF PHNOM PENH.  
COMMENT: THE ENEMY MAY HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA AND AN END  
TO THE BASSAC OPERATION WHICH FANK BEGAN AUGUST 21 MAY BE IN SIGHT.

14. ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 17 THE ENCIRCLED GARRISON  
OF DAS KANCHOR ALONG ROUTE 4 WEST OF KOMPONG SPEU CAME  
UNDER HEAVY ATTACK. THE ENEMY BREACHED THE NORTHERN  
DEFENSIVE PERIMETER IN THREE PLACES PENETRATING INTO THE  
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GARRISON INTERIOR AT ONE POINT. THE DEFENDERS COUNTERATTACKED WITH M-113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND WERE ABLE TO DRIVE OUT THE ENEMY WHO LEFT 16 DEAD IN THE CAMP. OVER THE FOLLOWING THREE DAYS KAF STRAFED AND BOMBARDED ENEMY TRENCH LINES ALONG THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER CAUSING THE ENEMY TO QUIT THE AREA. FANK PATROLS SWEEPING THE AREA OUTSIDE THE GARRISON DISCOVERED OVER 100 ENEMY DEAD.

15. A 260-TRUCK CONVOY TRANSITED FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG TO BATT-AMBANG ON DECEMBER 17 WITHOUT INCIDENT. KAMPOT REPORTED KILLING 13 ENEMY DURING ENEMY ATTACKS ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 18. TAKEO REPORTED AN ENEMY ATTACK BY FIRE (ABF) ON DECEMBER 21 CONSISTING OF THIRTY 81MM MORTAR ROUNDS WHICH LANDED ON A REFUGEE CAMP KILLING TWO AND WOUNDING 21. THE PORT CITY OF KOMPONG SOM TOOK 20 ROUNDS OF 81 OR 82MM MORTAR FIRE WHICH KILLED SIX AND DESTROYED A NUMBER OF HOUSES.

16. TWO MEKONG CONVOYS ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH DURING THE WEEK SUFFERING THREE ABF'S ENROUTE CAUSING LIGHT DAMAGE AND NO CASUALTIES. SEVERAL RIVER CONVOYS TRANSITED FROM PHNOM PENH TO KOMPONG CHHNANG REPORTEDLY WITHOUT INCIDENT. DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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